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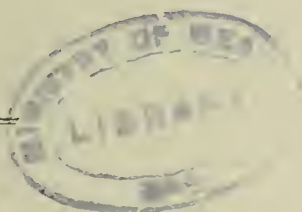
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Kington Urban District

HEREFORDSHIRE



ANNUAL REPORT

on the

State of the Public Health

For the Year 1947

Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health	...	H. F. GREEN, M.A., M.B., D.P.H.
Clerks	...	MISS D. M. J. BRAMFITT (resigned on 18th January, 1947)
		MISS S. DENSHAM (appointed on 17th February, 1947)
Sanitary Inspector (part-time) (Tel. No.: Kington 31)	...	R. P. MORRIS, A.R.S.I., Westfield, Kington.

Public Health Office: 4, CHURCH STREET, LEOMINSTER.

Telephone: Leominster 95.

To the Chairman and Members of the Kington Urban District Council

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1947.

In my report for 1946, I pointed out the urgency of the housing problem. Progress in the provision of new houses has not been as rapid as one would have liked to have seen. I understand that the difficulties were largely those of finding labour and materials. It is to be hoped that this and any other difficulties may soon be overcome.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the members of the Council and the staff for their co-operation and friendliness during my ten years of office and also to emphasise the value of the work done by your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Morris, during the same period.

H. F. GREEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	857
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1947) according to the Rate Books	552
Rateable Value	£9,087
Sum represented by a Penny rate	£36 3 8

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR:

LIVE BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	20.6
STILL-BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 Live and Still births)	23.8
DEATH RATE (per 1,000 of estimated resident population)	14.6
INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE (per 1,000 Live births)	24.4

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES: No deaths during 1947 were attributable to puerperal or maternal causes.

COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1947:

Live Birth Rate	20.5
Death Rate	12.0
Infantile Mortality Rate	41.0

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratory facilities continued to be available at the Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, which is at present under the administration of the Medical Research Council.

CLINICS

There are none provided by the Local Authority.

Under the County Council schemes the following Clinic facilities are available to residents in the district.

Child Welfare Centre: In the Church Hall, Kington, on alternate Tuesdays at 2 p.m.

Venereal Diseases: At the County Council Hospital, Hereford, on Wednesdays and Fridays.

The County schemes also provide for Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, Paediatric, Ear, Nose and Throat, and Eye Clinics. Children are referred to these Clinics as and when required, on the recommendation of the School Medical or Infant Welfare Authority, or at the request of the Medical Practitioner.

I am indebted to Mr. R. P. Morris, Sanitary Inspector to the Council, for the following statement (Sections C to E) furnished under Article 27 (Sub-section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (outside London) Regulations.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER: SAMPLING

The water supply is obtained from a Spring at the Crooked Well. It comes direct from rock and is conveyed by pipe to the Pumping Station and then pumped to Reservoirs at the top of the Town. The supply has throughout the year, been more than sufficient for the needs of the community.

Routine sampling has been carried out. During the year, the analysis showed a water of good quality and consistent in its purity.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

148 yards of new drain were constructed during the period under review.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The effluent from the sewage works (which is discharged into a brook flowing to the River Arrow) has improved still further during the year as a result of the alterations carried out on the filter beds.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

This takes the form of incineration which is carried out in a building on the Sewage Disposal site. The ashes are cleared occasionally for filling in where road work is in progress.

SANITARY INSPECTION

Inspection of the area is regularly made and defects noted. Owners of the property are approached and in most cases there is little difficulty in having the necessary work carried out.

Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	72
Water Closets repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8
Drain traps renewed	...	...	...	...	...	14
Sinks repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8
New Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	6
Defective water taps repaired	...	...	...	...	...	18
Premises disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	36

Defects of roofs and buildings have received such attentions as was possible. It has to be borne in mind that extensive work is not possible on account of shortage of labour and materials. One new factory has been built during the year.

NOTICES ISSUED

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	...	118
Statutory	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

FACTORIES

The factories situated within the area have been inspected on 34 occasions. Only 4 minor defects were noted.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

INSPECTIONS UNDER THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	18	3	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	25	37	2	—
TOTAL	36	55	5	—

Cases in which defects were found:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	4	4	—	3	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act, (not including offences relating to outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	5	5	—	4	—

CAMPING SITES

Camping does not exist on a large scale. No sites are registered.

BED BUGS

Three cases were reported during the year. Disinfestation was carried out on the premises with satisfactory results.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

- (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts ... 68
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 109
- Number of dwelling houses found not to be, in all respects, reasonably fit for human habitation ... 12

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

- Proceedings under Public Health Acts ... Nil
- Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 12
- Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
- By Owners ... 12
 - By Local Authority in default of Owners ... Nil

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

FOOD PREMISES

Routine inspections are carried out. The general standard of cleanliness is good.

FOODS SURRENDERED

The under mentioned foods were surrendered during the year:

Vegetables	...	216 lbs.	Luncheon Meat	...	24 tins
Dried Fruit	...	108 lbs.	Condensed Milk	...	215 tins
Margarine	...	Nil	Preserves	...	32 tins
Cheese	...	Nil	Fish	...	41 tins
Bacon and Ham	...	198 lbs.	Fresh and Dried Fish	...	4 cwt.
Mutton and Beef	...	607 lbs.	Potatoes	...	18 cwt.

FOOD FOUND TO BE UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

All food found to be unfit for human or animal consumption is taken to the Destructor and burnt.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There were no outbreaks of infectious disease. Those represented in the table were merely sporadic cases. The one case of malaria was known to have been contracted abroad.

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES, ACCORDING TO AGE

DISEASE	AGE OF PATIENT													TOTAL	
	0 — 1	1 — 2	2 — 3	3 — 4	4 — 5	5 — 6	6 — 7	7 — 10	10 — 15	15 — 20	20 — 30	30 — 40	Over 40		Unknown
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Measles	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	6
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The state of immunisation of the child population of the district at the end of 1947 is indicated in the table below:

Under 5 years of age		Between 5 and 15 years of age		Total
Number	Percentage of group	Number	Percentage of group	under 15
108	64.8%	350	121.1%	458

It is gratifying to notice that since the introduction of the General Practitioner's scheme, the number of children immunised has increased considerably over last year. The figure of 121.1% of the population between the age of 5 and 15 years, who have been immunised, is due to the considerable movements of population that took place immediately after the close of the war. The effect on our records of the "unofficial evacuees," who migrated to Kington during the war and returned after immunisation here and at the end of the war to their homes, will persist for a few more years.

"LOCAL" CHILDREN, aged 0—4 years.

		1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Number immunised during year	...	—	96	3	58	41	20	39	28	40
Number immunised at any time	...	—	96	70	106	120	101	110	101	108

" Immunised " indicates only those children who have completed a full course of injections.

As from the 5th July, 1948, all immunisation becomes the responsibility of the Herefordshire County Council. The County Medical Officer will in future report annually on the state of immunisation of children.

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1947, the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of ten males and nine females, who normally reside in the Council's district

During the year, one new case was notified on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. During the same period, two persons suffering from the disease left the district.

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

Disease	Male	Female	Total
Influenza	1	—	1
Cancer (all forms)	4	1	5
Diabetes	1	—	1
Intra-cranial Vascular lesions	2	2	4
Diseases of the Heart and Arteries	7	4	11
Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other respiratory diseases	2	1	3
Diseases of the digestive system	—	1	1
Nephritis	1	—	1
Violence	1	1	2

